EnviroNews
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THE DEPOT
THE MEMPHIS DEPOT ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM
RESTORE, REUSE, REVITALIZE

Cleanup underway at Dunn Field

Buried waste and affected soil is being removed from the Dunn Field Disposal Sites according to the cleanup remedy approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).

In March, environmental contractors at the former Memphis Depot began implementing the approved cleanup remedy as part of the Remedial Action phase of the Depot's environmental program. The remedy involves excavation, transportation and disposal (ET&D), as outlined in the Record of Decision (ROD), which was approved in April 2004. A public briefing on the Remedial Design for the remedy was held in January 2005.

A Mactec field team member excavates affected soil from a former disposal site on Dunn Field.

During ET&D activities, the environmental contractors are following a site safety plan to protect workers, residents and the environment. The plan includes air monitoring, dust control measures, equipment cleaning, and personal protective equipment for workers.

A pre-design investigation of 17 former disposal sites at Dunn Field was completed in October 2003. The study identified five sites that required ET&D – Sites 3, 4.1, 10, 13 and 31. The final Disposal Sites Remedial Design, including the study results, was distributed to the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) in June 2004.

The excavated soil will be sampled to ensure waste is taken to the appropriate facility for disposal. Non-hazardous waste will be transported to the Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) South Shelby Landfill. Soil and debris that is classified as hazardous waste will be transported to the Emelle Treatment Facility in Emelle, Alabama. Excavated soil is being replaced with clean fill at each disposal site.

Following excavation, the environmental contractors will collect soil samples from each disposal site to confirm that cleanup goals have been met. The initial excavations have been completed at sites 4.1, 10, 13 and 31. Cleanup goals have been met at Sites 4.1, 13 and 31. Excavated soil was classified as non-hazardous waste and disposed at South Shelby Landfill. All excavations have been backfilled with clean soil.

At Site 10, soil samples indicated that the cleanup goals had not been met at one end of the excavation. The environmental contractors performed a visual inspection and identified a burn pit. They will continue the excavation of Site 10 later this summer and will ensure that the cleanup goals are met.

At Site 3, the contractors unearthed several glass bottles, which were sealed and still contained liquid. The presence of the bottles was indicated by the historical records, but the number of bottles and the liquid contents required that excavation be stopped until the liquid could be analyzed. Test results confirmed the liquid was acidified water with low concentrations of ortho-tolidine, a compound commonly used to detect the presence of chlorine in water. The cleanup team will put appropriate safety measures in place to ensure that workers, residents and the environment are protected as the excavation continues this summer.

All recovered waste was removed from the ground, inspected and transported off-site for disposal.

The environmental contractors will prepare a Remedial Action Completion Report after all five sites have been excavated and all cleanup goals have been met. The report will be reviewed and must be approved by EPA and TDEC. The approved final Remedial Action Completion Report will be placed in the Depot's Information Repositories.

The Dunn Field ROD and the Dunn Field Disposal Sites Remedial Design and Remedial Action Work Plan are available for reference in the Depot's Information Repositories, located at the Memphis Depot Business Park and the Cherokee Library. ❑

NEXT MEETINGS

July 21/05 - 6 pm
Main Installation Remedial Design Public Briefing

October 20/05 - 6 pm
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

Both meetings will be held at the South Memphis Senior Citizens Center, 1620 Marjorie Street.